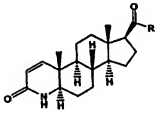
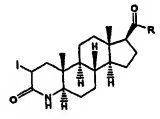
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing a 1-androstene derivative of formula (I)



(I)

which comprises reacting a 2-iodo-androstane derivative of formula (XII)



(XII)

with an oxidizing agent, wherein R is -OH, $-OR^1$ or $-NHR^2$, in which R^1 is a straight or branched C_{1-5} alkyl group and R^2 is a straight or branched C_{1-5} alkyl group or 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is selected from the group consisting of *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid, peracetic acid, trifluoroperacetic acid, permaleic acid, sodium bromite, sodium hypochloride, hydrogen peroxide, iodosomethylbenzene and iodosobenzene.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the oxidizing agent is *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxidizing agent is employed in an amount ranging from 2.0 to 6.0 equivalents based on 1.0 equivalent of the derivative of formula (XII).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction is conducted at a pH ranging

from 5.5 to 7.5.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein R is *tert*-butylamino or 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenylamino.